

Overview of

“Boundary Guidance on Air Quality Designations for the 8-Hour
Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards”

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EPA's Designation Guidance

What is a nonattainment area?

Per Section 107(d)(1)(A)(i) of the CAA -

Nonattainment Area ...

“... any area that does not meet (or that contributes to ambient air quality in a nearby area that does not meet) the national primary or secondary ambient air quality standard for the pollutant”



EPA's Designation Guidance

**EPA Presumption – entire
metropolitan statistical area (MSA)**

**MSA is based on U.S. Bureau of the
Census definition.**



EPA's Designation Guidance

“... to propose larger or smaller nonattainment area boundaries (including partial counties or portions of areas on tribal land) than those matching the C/MSA...”

An area -

“... should address how the following factors affect the drawing of nonattainment boundaries...”



EPA's Designation Guidance Criteria

- **Air quality in area, adjacent areas, and region**
 - **Assessment of monitored (urban and regional scale) and modeled air quality**
- **Location of emission sources**
 - **Assessment of emissions/sources in area and nearby areas: location, size, level of control; contribution to a violating area or violating rural county downwind**
 - **Emission sources and nearby receptors should generally be included in the same nonattainment area**



EPA's Designation Guidance Criteria

- **Population density and degree of urbanization including commercial development**
 - **Assessment of current population and urbanization, traffic and commuting patterns, and economic activity**
- **Expected growth**
 - **Assessment of the extent, pattern and rate of expected growth of population, urbanization, traffic and commuting patterns**



EPA's Designation Guidance Criteria

- **Meteorology**
 - **Assessment of weather and transport patterns**
- **Geography/topography**
 - **Assessment of effects of mountain ranges and air basin boundaries**



EPA's Designation Guidance Criteria

- **Jurisdictional boundaries**
 - **Identification of counties, air districts, existing 1-hour nonattainment areas, tribal lands, etc.**
- **Regional emissions reductions**
 - **Identification of regional control strategies (ex: NO_x SIP call)**

("Boundary Guidance on Air Quality Designations for the 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards" is available at EPA website
<http://www.epa.gov/airlinks/32802conde.html>)